

CASA OF PINAL COUNTY

Weekly Update - Week of May 4th, 2020

MAY IS FOSTER CARE AWARENESS MONTH



As a young person who was in foster care as a teenager, I have come to realize that there are many misconceptions and stigmas surrounding young people in the foster care system. When teenagers first enter foster care, they are often in the midst of the most traumatizing time of their lives. Most teens who live with their families are able to have typical teenage experiences without many responsibilities or real-life worries.

For teens in foster care, day-to-day life is dramatically different. Foster youth experience severe trauma while simultaneously trying to adjust to their new environment. Often, how young people express their trauma is misinterpreted, and as a result, they are labeled “poorly behaved,” “problematic” or having anger issues. These labels indicate a lack of understanding of what young people in foster care go through, creating an inaccurate picture of young people impacted by the system.

This stigma affects young people and minimizes the number of foster homes willing to take in teenagers, ultimately impacting their chances of being adopted. It also deters people from wanting to become foster parents at all. Misjudgments can have a lifelong effect on young people. Most young people entering foster care are just coming to the realization that the very people charged with protecting and supporting them have failed at doing so.

The pain of dealing with such trauma is often exhibited as negative behaviors. These behaviors are an outward expression of young people’s efforts to cope with feelings of being abandoned, given up on and characterized as criminal, problematic or dangerous. Despite past and current trauma, young people are perceptive of stigma and prejudice, which have an effect on their psychological health and development throughout their lives.

- Andrew Salazar



Andrew Salazar

CASA WEEKLY UPDATE

UPCOMING PEER SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS

In an effort to continue our Peer Support Groups while social distancing, we are going to host a ZOOM meeting to aid in bringing our CASAs together.

"Emily Belloc is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting."

Topic: Queen Creek Peer Support Group
(Open to any CASA who wishes to join- highly suggested)

Time: May 12, 2020 06:00 PM Arizona
(Meeting is exactly one hour in length)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87047704393?pwd=ZHNqYjZXbHFPdlJrRlZlNGNVQlRIQT09>

Meeting ID: 870 4770 4393

Password: 0x31j0"

We hope many of you take advantage of this great opportunity to connect. We will welcome the day when we can all connect in person again. Until then, we want to keep you safe and healthy.

Our CASAs are doing a wonderful job attending court via phone, meetings via phone, and finding creative ways to stay connected to our CASA kiddos. - Thank You!





CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

CASA OF PINAL COUNTY